

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, EG

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: CAIRO 5430

1. REFTEL MOST APPRECIATED. MOUSTAFA, EMBASSY CULTURAL SECTION, INDICATED TRANSPORTATION WAS NOT PROBLEM; THAT EGYPT WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE CHARTER FLIGHT. REFTEL 2ND PARAGRAPH INCORRECT; SMITHSONIAN HAS NEVER INDICATED IT COULD FUND TRAVEL.

2. MOUSTAFA NOW RECOMMENDS SMITHSONIAN ACCEPT REDA BALLETT ARTISTS AND NOT INSIST ON HALIM EL DABH'S SELECTIONS. SMITHSONIAN HAS EXPLAINED HOW, AS SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION WITH MAJOR DISPLAY UNDER GUIDANCE OF PANEL OF FOLKLORISTS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGISTS, IT MUST PRESENT ROOT CULTURE, NOT CHOREOGRAPHED THEATRICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF FOLK CULTURE. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, HALIM EL DABH AND MAGDA SALEH HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED SMITHSONIAN. BOTH WILL SERVE AS

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FOLKLORIST-PRESENTER FOR EGYPTIAN GROUP.

3. RE OTHER SOURCES, CU CANNOT FUND SINCE IT LACKS
PROGRAM FOR BRINGING PERFORMING GROUPS TO U.S.;

SMITHSONIAN DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS IN ITS DOLLAR BUDGET.
POST MIGHT CONSIDER ANY OF FOLLOWING:

A. PERSUADE GOE TO REQUEST GRATIS ROUNDTrip AIRFARE
FROM EGYPTAIR OR ANOTHER AIRLINE UNDER PROVISIOS OF IATA
RESOLUTION 200F AND 200G. AT LEAST ONE OTHER COUNTRY
USING THIS MECHANISM SUCCESSFULLY. AIRLINES NATURALLY
RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THIS PRACTICE BUT IF WRITTEN REQUEST
IS RECEIVED FROM OFFICIAL OF GOVERNMENT BY AIRLINE CAIRO
SALES OFFICE, LATTER WILL REFER REQUEST TO ITS MAIN OFFICE
FOR CONSIDERATION AND SMITHSONIAN UNDERSTANDS THIS CAN BE
FAVORABLE.

B. PERSUADE GOE TO MAKE APPEAL TO ARAB LEAGUE FOR
BALANCE OF FUNDS NEEDED SINCE EGYPT REPRESENTS ARAB WORLD
AT BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL. REHEARSALS FOR FESTIVAL HAD
TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION IN 1974, LEBANESE IN 1975 BUT THOSE
TWO WEEKS LONG ONLY. IN 1976, FESTIVAL IS 12 WEEKS LONG,
ISRAEL IS PARTICIPATING FIRST WEEK; EGYPT SIXTH WEEK; IT IS
INCONCEIVABLE THAT ARAB WORLD NOT BE REPRESENTED AT
BICENTENNIAL EVENT.

C. EMBASSY MIGHT APPEAL TO AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS
IN EGYPT FOR BALANCE OF FUNDS NEEDED (FOLLOWING PATTERN
FOR EXXON PARTICIPATION WISSA WASSEF EXHIBITION). IN
TUNIS, 1974, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RAISED FUNDS FOR TRAVEL
OF ALL PARTICIPANTS THROUGH LOCAL BANKS. LOCAL PUBLICITY
CAN BE GENERATED.

D. FAILING THESE, SMITHSONIAN COULD FUND FROM REMAINING
PL 480 FUNDS. OF SMITHSONIAN ANTICIPATED TOTAL
EXPENDITURES, DOLLARS THREE THOUSAND EQUIVALENT IN
EGYPTIAN POUNDS REMAIN IN FOLK-FESTIVAL-RALATED ACTIVITY.
ADDITIONAL FUNDING COULD BE AVAILABLE AS OTHER FOLKLIFE
FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES NEAR COMPLETION. SISCO

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